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Negotiated Viet Peace Likely Soon, Goldwater Hints in Speech to VFW

By Morton Mintz

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Reporter
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Sen. Barry M. Goldwater said today that Americans should prepare "for an announcement in the very near future" of a negotiated peace in Viet-Nam.

Although he spoke in the context of an attack on the Johnson Administration, the Republican presidential nominee did not make clear whether he objected to a negotiated peace on principle or only on certain terms.

Using Laos as an example in a speech before the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr. Goldwater said that a negotiated peace that could result in the loss of a country would need "a long, hard look."

He also said, "If it is a consent to neutralization, it is an open door for Communist infiltration."

The Arizonaan preceded all of this by saying that "since the 1961 decision to forego the instructor role" in South Viet-Nam, "we have been in war ... I can't come up with any other word for that exercise."

Mr. Goldwater's remarks were departures from his prepared text. Its only specific reference to Viet-Nam was in a sentence saying that the Southeast Asian country, "tortured by many domestic problems, is being slowly murdered by the Communist violence."

In another departure from his prepared speech, Mr. Goldwater said, "I must say that I see a lot of truth" in a contention that to win the war in Viet-Nam "is impossible."

A month ago Mr. Goldwater's running mate, Rep. William E. Miller (N.Y.), said on "Meet The Press" (NBC, WRC) that "We should either win or get out."

Mr. Goldwater referred to a report made in June but just made public, in which a CIA officer, Walter Matthias, expressed "serious doubts that victory can be won." Matthias also said that with continued American aid "a prolonged stalemate can be attained."

The Administration has said that a possible negotiated settlement based on neutralization does not represent United States policy.

Much of Mr. Goldwater's prepared speech dealt with the sensitive problem of control of nuclear weapons.

The nominee, who charged that the Johnson Administration is "misled by strange and unrealistic notions of appeasement and disarmament," said:

"... a way must be developed to provide NATO with

its own stock of small, tactical nuclear battlefield weapons—what may truly be called, and ultimately will be called, conventional nuclear weapons.

"... NATO's effectiveness would be enhanced if a political solution for the control of these small conventional nuclear weapons could be worked out in NATO itself.

"And let me stress — the American people don't understand, they're not given an opportunity to understand—that these small conventional nuclear weapons are no more powerful than the firepower you have faced on the battlefield. They simply come in a smaller package."

So far as is publicly known, the smallest nuclear weapon is the Davy Crockett, which a Goldwater aide said has an

explosive force about equal to 40 tons of TNT. World War II's biggest blockbuster weighed six tons, including TNT and the steel casing.

At present, the Army's largest tactical artillery weapon is the 8-inch howitzer, which fires a shell weighing 163 pounds, including the casing. Apparently, Mr. Goldwater was referring to the potential of a single small nuclear weapon in destroying targets requiring a barrage of shells loaded with TNT.

Wearing a green VFW overseas cap before an audience that interrupted with bursts of applause about 40 times in 30 minutes, Mr. Goldwater said that he had become accustomed to seeing things like the Matthias report escalate from newspaper stories—in the Chicago Tribune, in this case—into "established fact."

In introducing Mr. Goldwater, the VFW's national commander, Joseph J. Lombardo, was twice interrupted by applause from about 7500 delegates in the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

Resolutions Ready

The delegates have before them one resolution for carrying on a "full-scale engagement" in Viet-Nam "in order that we may have an ultimate victory and the defeat of Communist forces," and another for the banishment of the United Nations from United States territory.

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